



## Senator Val Stevens

Serving Washington's 39th Legislative District

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### Grateful seniors make it all worthwhile

As a state senator I usually hear from my constituents about what they *dislike* about Washington – what they want changed. But the other day, 34 seniors at the Alpine Ridge Retirement Apartments made my day.

It started last session when I introduced Senate Bill 5470, a bill providing a sales and use tax exemption for any meal served to residents and visitors of qualified low-income senior housing facilities.

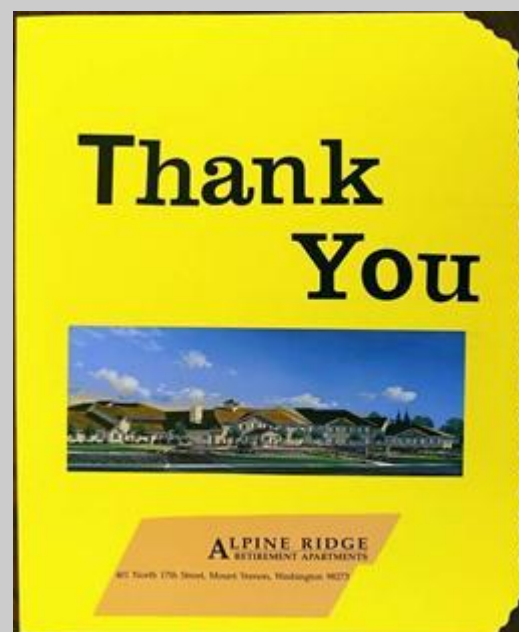
Life is difficult for a low-income senior living in a nursing facility. My bill would simply make it easier and less expensive for their families to join them in the nursing home and have meals together. Every cent adds up – and this measure would help.

Senate Bill 5470 passed both the House and the Senate unanimously, and the bill became law this summer. A few days afterwards, I received a huge, yellow, hand-made “Thank You” card signed by the residents at Alpine. They said:

“Thank you for your support of Bill #5470 repealing the Service Package sales tax. Many of us are on fixed incomes and have been struggling for some time to make ends meet.

“This repeal will allow us to have a few extra dollars each month for a few extras that we have not been able to buy.

“In a time when money is tight for Washington State we are



sure that this was not an easy task to accomplish.”

All 34 signed the card, with little notes of thanks and smiley faces.

I can tell you, it brought a smile to my face.

These days, with a sagging economy, activist groups so contentious and many citizens angry and out of sorts, it's pure joy to hear from people I have been able to help.

It's a great feeling to – once in a while – win a victory for our citizens!

Sincerely,

